

In the Claims

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a natriuretic hormone peptide (NHP); or a nucleic acid sequence encoding NHP, and an operably linked promoter sequence; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Original): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein said composition comprises said nucleic acid sequence encoding NHP and said operably linked promoter sequence, and wherein said NHP comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6, or a biologically active fragment or homolog of any of the foregoing.

Claims 16-19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Original): An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a natriuretic hormone peptide (NHP) and an operably linked promoter sequence.

Claim 21 (Original): The expression vector of claim 20, wherein said NHP comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6, or a biologically active fragment or homolog of any of the foregoing.

Claim 22 (Cancelled)

Claim 23 (Original): An isolated cell genetically modified with a nucleic acid sequence encoding a natriuretic hormone peptide (NHP) and an operably linked promoter.

Claim 24 (Original): The isolated cell of claim 23, wherein said NHP comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6, or a biologically active fragment or homolog of any of the foregoing.

Claim 25 (Original): An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence consisting essentially of SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:6, or encoding a biologically active fragment or homolog of SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:6.

Claim 26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27 (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes a natriuretic hormone peptide comprising an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:5, or a biologically active fragment or homolog of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 28 (New): The expression vector of claim 20, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:5, or a biologically active fragment or homolog of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 29 (New): The isolated cell of claim 23, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes a natriuretic hormone peptide comprising an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:5, or a biologically active fragment or homolog of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 30 (New): The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 25, wherein said amino acid sequence consists essentially of SEQ ID NO:5, or encodes a biologically active fragment or homolog of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 31 (New): A method of treating allergic disease, comprising administering an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 13 to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes a natriuretic hormone peptide comprising an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:5, or a biologically active fragment or homolog of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 33 (New): The method of claim 32, wherein the natriuretic hormone peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 34 (New): A method of treating allergic disease, comprising administering an effective amount of the expression vector of claim 20 to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 35 (New): The method of claim 34, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes a natriuretic hormone peptide comprising an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:5, or a biologically active fragment or homolog of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 36 (New): The method of claim 35, wherein the natriuretic hormone peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 37 (New): A method of treating allergic disease, comprising administering an effective amount of the isolated cell of claim 23 to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 38 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes a natriuretic hormone peptide comprising an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:5, or a biologically active fragment or homolog of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 39 (New): The method of claim 38, wherein the natriuretic hormone peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 40 (New): A method of treating allergic disease, comprising administering an effective amount of the isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 25 to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 41 (New): The method of claim 40, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes a natriuretic hormone peptide comprising an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:5, or a biologically active fragment or homolog of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 42 (New): The method of claim 41, wherein the natriuretic hormone peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.